

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by marked up replacement paragraph(s) as follows.

Please replace paragraph [45] with the following:

--[45] Because spreadsheets require tedious duplication of formulas or entire documents to model each alternative scenario, such painstaking approach encourages spreadsheet builders to discard ranges of numbers and just consider the mid-point. Spreadsheet users accordingly would have to perform substantial extra work just to consider the options “low, likely, high” on a single input variable. However, each input variable which has a range of potential values contributes to an exponential increase in the number of outcomes that must be considered; as few as ten input variables that span a range could result in a thousand potential outcomes. Using a non-linear solver to maximize or minimize values of interest (e.g., profit) is one approach to this problem. Another approach is to use a Monte-Carlo simulation to estimate the most probable outcome based on probabilistic inputs.--